

# MUS 116 Syllabus

## DESCRIPTION

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*Introduction to Music Theory for Non-Majors* is designed to immerse you in the most basic and essential elements of practical music theory. We will cover music notation, pitch, rhythm and meter, scales, intervals, and simple harmonic progressions. By the end of the course, you should be able to describe and analyze aspects of simple compositions, and you will have acquired practical knowledge to increase your musicianship.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

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You are required to purchase

**Joseph N. Straus, *Elements of Music*, 3rd Ed. (Pearson 2012)**

This textbook is available at the University's bookstore, and comes packaged with an access code for online resources, including an electronic version of the textbook, downloadable exercises, online flashcards and self-assessments.

You must also bring pencil, eraser, and staff paper to class. Staff paper can be purchased in notebook format, or printed from websites like <http://www.blanksheetmusic.net>.

## COURSE POLICIES

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### **Attendance & Punctuality**

Your attendance is required at all lectures. An attendance sheet will be available at the start of every class; *it is your responsibility to sign this sheet*. If you arrive late, the sheet may not be available and your attendance may not be recorded for that day.

### **Late Work**

Late assignments will not be accepted (though they may always be submitted for feedback). Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due at the beginning of the next lecture.

### **Absence affecting homework, quizzes, or tests**

Absences are sometime unavoidable. If you are absent for an excusable reason, such as sudden and severe illness (accompanied by a physician's note), I will try to work with you to establish a reasonable time to make up any missed work.

### **Phone Calls & Texting**

Texts and phone calls during class are **NOT ALLOWED**. If you text or participate in a phone call during class, you will be asked to leave, and your attendance will not be recorded for that day.

### **Cheating & Plagiarism**

Cheating and plagiarism are severe offenses, and will be dealt with harshly.

Broadly, cheating means that one failed to do some expected work, but still submitted something as though the work had been done. Cheating can include copying from somebody else's exam, turning in a copy of somebody else's homework, and even turning in work done for another class as though it had been done for this class. Please note that even if you work with somebody to understand an assignment, it is expected that the final product that you turn in is your own work, and only your own work.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating, and is the use of somebody else's work as your own. To avoid plagiarism, credit the source of any material you use that you did not create, and make sure that this unoriginal material is in limited quantity.

### **Disciplinary Action**

Repeat violation of course policies may lead to severe disciplinary action.

### **Reasonable Accommodation**

If you have a disability, please notify me so that we can work out a means of accommodating it. UB Disability Services should also be working with you to put an accommodation plan in place; their website is <http://www.ub-disability.buffalo.edu>.

## GRADING

There will be daily assignments for the course. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are equally weighted, regardless of the arbitrary number of points used to grade each assignment. Each assignment is named according to the week and day it is due. For example, your first assignment is due on Week 1, Day 2, and is called "Assignment 1.2."

There will be a quiz every two weeks, on the final day of each of those weeks.

There will be a midterm during week 7 (prior to Spring Break), and a final during exam week.

Your grade will be calculated according to the following guide:

Attendance ~ 5%

Assignments ~ 50%

Quizzes ~ 15%

Midterm ~ 10%

Final ~ 20%

## PARTIAL SCHEDULE (WEEKS 1-7)

---Weeks 8-14 will be sent shortly.

Date		Topics	Assignment Due
<b>Week 1</b>	Day 1	Lesson 1: Staff, Lesson 6: Simple rhythms in 4/4	N/A
	Day 2	Review of Lessons 1 & 6, Lesson 2: Keyboard	<b>Asgmt 1.2:</b> Exercises 1-1: b, c, e, f; 1-2: b, c; 6-1: b, c, d; 6-2: b, c, d.
<b>Week 2</b>	Day 1	Review of Lesson 6, Lesson 3: Treble Clef, Lesson 7: Eighth- and sixteenth-notes	<b>Asgmt 2.1:</b> Exercises 2-2: a, b, c, d, e; 2-3: a, b, c, d, e; 6-3: b, c, d; 6-4: a <i>or</i> b.
	Day 2	Review of Lesson 7, Lesson 4: Bass clef, Lesson 5: Great staff	<b>Asgmt 2.2:</b> Exercises 3-1: c, d; 3-4: a, b; 7-1: b, c, d; 7-2: b, c, d.
<b>Week 3</b>	Day 1	Quiz 1 Prep, Lesson 8: Dots and ties, Lesson 9: Rests, Lesson 14: Major scale (C major)	<b>Asgmt 3.1:</b> read Lessons 4, 5 & 7, Exercises 3-7: a; 4-2: a, b; 4-3: b, c; 4-4: a, b; 5-4: a, b; 5-5: a, b; 7-3: a, b; 7-4: a, b; 7-5: a <i>or</i> b.
	Day 2	<b>Quiz 1</b> , Lesson 15: Major scales (Other than C major), Lesson 16: Major keys and key signatures	<b>Asgmt 3.2:</b> Exercises 5-1: a, b; 5-2: a, b; 5-3: a; 8-1: c, d; 8-3: a, b; 8-5: a; 9-1: a, b; 9-2: a, b, c.
<b>Week 4</b>	Day 1	Review of Lesson 16, Lesson 17: Minor scale (A minor), Lesson 18: Minor scales (Other than A minor)	<b>Asgmt 4.1:</b> Exercises 14-1: a, b, c; 14-2: c; 15-1: a, b; 15-2: a, b, c; 15-3: a, b, c; 15-4: a, b, c; 16-1: a, b; 16-2: a, b, c; 16-3: a.
	Day 2	Quiz 2 Prep, Lesson 10: Duple meter, Lesson 19: Minor keys and key signatures, Lesson 20: Harmonic and melodic minor	<b>Asgmt 4.2:</b> Exercises 15-4: d, e, f; 15-5: a, b, c; 15-6: a, b, c; 16-3: b, c; 16-4: a, b; 17-1 (all); 18-1: a, b; 18-2: a, b, c; 18-3: a, b, c.
<b>Week 5</b>	Day 1	<b>Quiz 2</b> , Review of Lessons 17-20, Lesson 11: Triple meter	<b>Asgmt 5.1:</b> Exercises 10-1: b, c, d; 10-2: b, c, d; 17-2: a, b; 18-4: a, b, c, d; 18-5: a, b, c; 18-6: a, b, c; 19-1: a,

			b, c; 19-2: a, b, c; 20-1: a, b, c, d; 20-3: a, b.
	Day 2	Lesson 21: Interval size, Lesson 22: Seconds and thirds	<b>Asgmt 5.2:</b> Exercises 11-1: b, c; 11-2: b, c; 11-4: a <i>or</i> b; 18-7: a, b, c; 19-3: a, b, c; 19-4: a, b, c; 19-5: a, b, c; 20-2: d, e, f, g; 20-4: a, b, c, d; 20-5: a, b.
<b>Week 6</b>	Day 1	Lesson 12: Compound meter, Lesson 23: Sixths and sevenths	<b>Asgmt 6.1:</b> Exercises 19-6, 19-7, 19-8, 21-1: a, b, c, d; 21-3: a, c; 22-2: a, b, c, d; 22-4: a, c; 22-6: a, b, c, d.
	Day 2	Review of Lesson 23, Lesson 24: fourths and fifths, unisons and octaves	<b>Asgmt 6.2:</b> Exercises 12-1: a, b, c; 12-2: a, b, c; 22-7: a, c; 22-8: a, c; 22-9: a, b, c; 23-2: a, b, c, d; 23-4: a, b; 23-6: a, b; 23-9: a, b.
<b>Week 7</b>	Day 1	Midterm Review	<b>Asgmt 7.1:</b> Exercises 23-3: a, b; 23-5: a, c; 23-7: a, b; 23-10: a, c; 24-2: a, b, c; 25-4: a, c; 24-6: a, b, c; 24-8: a, c; 24-9: a, b.
	Day 2	<b>Midterm</b>	N/A